

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An apparatus for assessing a person's hand strength comprising:

means for engaging the hand; and

means for determining the strength of the hand based on a twisting action with the hand of the engaging means relative to the determining means, the engaging means connected to the determining means.

2. An apparatus as described in Claim 1 wherein the determining means includes a torque sensor.

3. An apparatus as described in Claim 2 wherein the determining means includes a housing in which the torque sensor is disposed.

4. An apparatus as described in Claim 3 wherein the engaging means includes a first object connected to the torque sensor and extending from the housing having a first diameter which simulates opening a jar with the hand by the person when the person turns the first object.

5. An apparatus as described in Claim 4 wherein the engaging means includes a second object connected to the torque sensor and extending from the housing having a second diameter less than the first diameter that can replace the first object which

simulates turning a key with the hand by the person when the person turns the second object.

6. An apparatus as described in Claim 5 wherein the determining means has a display which displays torque sensed by the torque sensor.

7. An apparatus as described in Claim 6 wherein the determining means includes securing means attached to the housing that holds the housing in place.

8. An apparatus as described in Claim 7 wherein the securing means includes suction cups.

9. An apparatus as described in Claim 8 wherein the first object is a first disk and the second object is a second disk.

10. A method for assessing a person's hand strength comprising the steps of:

gripping a first object having a first diameter with the hand by the person;

twisting the first object with the hand; and

measuring torque with a torque sensor, connected to the first object, of the object as it is being twisted by the hand.

11. A method as described in Claim 10 including the step of replacing the first object with a second object having a second diameter less than the first diameter, and repeating the gripping, twisting and measuring steps with the second object.

12. A method as described in Claim 11 including the step of securing a housing, from which the first object extends and in which the torque sensor is disposed, in place on to a structure.

13. A method as described in Claim 12 including the step of displaying the torque measured by the torque sensor.